

EIGHTH ARMY REGULATION 672-2

DECORATIONS, AWARDS, AND HONORS (672)

Dr. Mary E. Walker Award

01 February 2000

UNCLASSIFIED

**HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY
UNIT #15236
APO AP 96205-0009**

**EUSA Regulation
No. 672-2**

1 February 2000

**(Effective: 1 February 2000)
Decorations, Awards, and Honors**

DR. MARY E. WALKER AWARD

SUPPLEMENTATION. Supplementation of this regulation and issuance of command and local forms are prohibited without prior approval of HQ EUSA, ATTN: EAGA-PP, Unit #15236, APO AP 96205-0009.

INTERNAL CONTROL PROVISIONS. This regulation does not contain management control procedures.

1. PURPOSE. This regulation provides information and administrative instructions for the Dr. Mary E. Walker (DRMEW) award program within Eighth United States Army (EUSA).

2. APPLICABILITY. This regulation applies to all EUSA subordinate commands, assigned or attached units, and tenant units.

3. REFERENCES. Required form. EUSA Form 526 (Dr. Mary E. Walker Award). Cited in paragraph 5b(2)(a).

4. EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS.

a. Abbreviations.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| (1) CSM | Command Sergeant Major |
| (2) DRMEW | Dr. Mary E. Walker Award |
| (3) EUSA | Eighth United States Army |
| (4) MSC | Major Subordinate Command |
| (5) SAMC | Sergeant Audie Murphy Club |

***This regulation supersedes EUSA Reg 672-2, 15 September 1999.**

EUSA Reg 672-2

b. Term. Dr. Mary E. Walker. The name of the only woman in United States history to receive the Medal of Honor. She was a humanitarian devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the Civil War, often at the risk of her own life. She was a patriot, dedicated and loyal to her country, serving on a volunteer basis as a field surgeon. A brief biography of Dr. Walker is at appendix A.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Commanders of EUSA major subordinate commands (MSCs) will--

(1) Establish procedures to govern nominating spouses for the DRMEW award within their MSC.

(2) Nominate spouses for the DRMEW award to their respective brigade-level Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) Initial Selection Board.

(3) Conduct appropriate awards ceremony to present approved DRMEW awards, if required.

b. The Command Sergeants Major (CSMs) 2 ID and 19 TAACOM will--

(1) Evaluate DRMEW award packets during quarterly EUSA SAMC final selection boards.

(2) Have the following prepared for and presented to new inductees:

(a) Dr. Mary E. Walker Award (EUSA Form 526) .

(b) Membership Medallion.

(3) Exercise final authority for approval of any policy or procedural exceptions.

c. The EUSA Assistant Chief of Staff, G1 is responsible for the overall program administration at the EUSA-level.

d. The EUSA Public Affairs Officer will provide media coverage and photography support of awards presentation ceremonies, as required.

e. The CSMs of each division-level SAMC initial selection board will review DRMEW award packets in conjunction with quarterly SAMC initial selection boards.

f. The CSMs of EUSA MSCs will exercise staff responsibility for oversight of the DRMEW award nomination process within their MSC.

6. POLICY.

a. The DRMEW award is a reward for Army spouses whose achievements and performance merit special recognition.

b. Eligibility. Spouses (male and female) of soldiers of all ranks are eligible. All eligible volunteers will have equal eligibility without consideration of a military member's rank or position.

c. The DRMEW award is a prestigious award and is a means of recognizing those who have contributed significantly to the quality of life for soldiers, exemplifying personal concern for the needs, training development and welfare of soldiers and concern for the families of soldiers.

d. Quotas will not be established.

e. The DRMEW award is not part of the Department of the Army awards program and should not compete with other established awards. It will not be used in lieu of awards for commendation, meritorious service, or routine departure, or as an interim award while awaiting a Department of the Army award.

f. The DRMEW award is not a short term or single event recognition. An individual may receive only one DRMEW award.

g. The DRMEW award will be presented at SAMC induction ceremonies or another such ceremony commensurate with the level of this award.

7. AWARD CRITERIA.

a. Eligible spouses who have distinguished themselves by outstanding volunteer service, contributing to the mission of the Army and to the welfare of the Army family, may be nominated for the DRMEW award.

b. The intent of this award is to recognize those eligible spouses whose service to our country is in the form of volunteering and is often "behind the scenes." Their way of life is marked by their efforts to improve their communities and enhance the overall military lifestyle.

c. The volunteer should be an active member/supporter of a unit family support group or an individual who actively supports (in a clearly distinguishable manner) a military organization that does not have an organized family support group.

d. The volunteer's service must directly benefit soldiers and/or their families or be readily identified as bringing great credit on the Army family. Volunteer service in the civilian community may be included in the nomination packet and should be included if it benefits soldiers and their families.

EUSA Reg 672-2

e. Level of individual sacrifice and dedication should be considered. Merit/quality/impact of volunteer accomplishment(s)/contribution(s) should also be considered. The length of time spent in a volunteer position or number of volunteer hours may be included but are not required. Quality, not quantity, should be the rule.

f. Volunteer service may be to/at several installation's/units of assignment.

g. The required number of areas/agencies of volunteer service is one or more.

h. The volunteer must not have received monetary incentive for acts or contributed services being considered for award.

8. PROCEDURES. The DRMEW award selection process is in three phases.

a. Phase 1 - Nomination. Anyone may nominate an eligible individual to their MSC CSM. The CSM will screen and evaluate nomination packets prior to forwarding to their MSC's brigade-level SAMC initial selection board. Nominations will be in memorandum format (an example is at appendix B) and will include the individual's identification, documentation of volunteer acts/service and justification for nomination.

b. Phase 2 - Brigade-level SAMC initial selection boards. Brigade-level SAMC initial selection boards will review recommendations for the DRMEW award and forward those recommended for approval to the EUSA SAMC Final Selection Boards for consideration via endorsement or memorandum, signed by the appropriate commander.

c. Phase 3 - The EUSA SAMC Final Selection Board. The EUSA SAMC Final Selection Boards will review DRMEW award nominations and determine if the volunteer warrants selection for the DRMEW award. The final selection board need not select candidates if they do not meet required standards. Nominations of selected volunteers will be retained by the final selection board.

d. At any level of review, nomination packets not meeting required standards for the DRMEW award will be reviewed to determine appropriate local recognition for the volunteer's contribution(s).

Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to the Commander EUSA, ATTN: EAGA-PP, Unit #15236, APO AP 96205-0009.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


JAMES P. O'DONNELL
Assistant Adjutant General

OFFICIAL:
JAMES R. MYLES
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

2 Appendixes

- A. The Biography of Dr. Mary E. Walker
- B. Sample Nomination Memorandum

DISTRIBUTION:

A (1 cy only)

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - CSM, EUSA, Unit #15236, APO AP 96205-0009
- 30 - PPC-K
- 8 - EAIM-R-RM

APPENDIX A

THE BIOGRAPHY OF DR. MARY E. WALKER

Mary Walker always stood out in a crowd. She was born 26 November 1832 in Oswego Town near Oswego, NY. As a child, she was distinguished for her strength of mind and her decision of character. She grew up an independent young woman. She always had an inclination to be useful in the world. A woman of great energy, in her early years she wore "bloomers," the pantaloony-style garb of the radical feminists of the age. When she graduated, the only female in her class, from Syracuse Medical College in 1855, she became one of the few women physicians in the country. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Dr. Walker, then twenty-nine, journeyed to Washington and applied for an appointment as an Army surgeon, much to the shock of the Medical Department, which rejected her with considerable verbosity. Not one to be discouraged, she stayed in Washington, serving as an unpaid volunteer in various camps and, when the patent office was converted into a hospital, she served as assistant surgeon and worked without pay. During that time, she was instrumental in establishing an organization that aided needy women who came to Washington to visit wounded relatives. Dr. Walker met with considerable abuse over her persistent demands to be made a surgeon, but also earned considerable respect for her many good works. Meanwhile she abandoned bloomers and adopted a modified version of male attire, with a calf-length skirt worn over trousers, keeping her hair relatively long and curled so that anyone could know that she was a woman. In November 1862, Walker presented herself at the Virginia headquarters of MG Ambrose Burnside and was taken on as a field surgeon, although still on a volunteer basis. She treated the wounded at Warrenton and in Fredericksburg in December 1862; almost a year later she was in Chattanooga tending the casualties of the battle of Chickamauga. After the battle, she again requested a commission as an Army doctor. In September 1863, MG George H. Thomas appointed her as an assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland, and she was assigned to the 52d Ohio Regiment, near Chattanooga, TN, a position in which she served well, wearing a somewhat modified version of the standard surgeon's uniform. Many stories were told of her bravery under fire. However, she served in this capacity for but a short time. In April 1864 she was captured by Confederate troops, having remained behind to tend wounded upon a Union retirement. Charged with being a spy and arrested, her male attire constituting the principal evidence against her, Dr. Walker spent four months in various prisons, subject to much abuse for her "unladylike" occupation and attire, until she was exchanged for a Confederate surgeon on 12 August 1864. Years later she took great pride in this "man for man" exchange. In October 1864, Walker was granted a contract by the Medical Department as an acting assistant surgeon. Despite her repeated requests for battlefield duty, she was not again sent into the field. She spent the rest of the war as superintendent at a Louisville, KY, female prison hospital and a Clarksville, TN, orphanage. Released from government contract at the end of the war, Walker lobbied for a brevet promotion to major for her services. Secretary of War Stanton would not grant the request. President Andrew Johnson asked him if there was some other way to recognize her service. A Medal of Honor was prepared for Walker and presented to her in January 1866; she would wear it every day for the rest of her life. After the war, Dr. Walker

EUSA Reg 672-2

remained active in the women's rights movement, and was a crusader against immorality, alcohol and tobacco and for clothing and election reform. Among her more unusual positions was that there was no need for a women's suffrage act, as women already had the vote as American citizens. Her taste in clothes caused frequent arrests on such charges as "impersonating a man." At one trial, she asserted her right "to dress as I please in free America on whose tented fields I have served for four years in the cause of human freedom." The judge dismissed the case and ordered the police never to arrest Walker on the charge again. She left the courtroom to hearty applause. In 1916 Congress revised the Medal of Honor standards to include only "actual combat with an enemy." Several months later, in 1917, the Board of Medal Awards, after reviewing the merits of the awardees of the Civil War awards, ruled Dr. Walker's Medal, as well as those of 910 other recipients, as unwarranted and it was revoked. She died on 21 February 1919, at the age of eighty-six. But Mary Walker was not forgotten. Nearly sixty years after her death, at the urging of a descendant, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records reviewed the case. On 19 June 1977, Army Secretary Clifford L. Alexander approved the recommendation by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, to restore the Medal of Honor to her. Dr. Mary E. Walker remains on record as the sole female recipient of the Medal of Honor.

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE NOMINATION MEMORANDUM

(Appropriate Letterhead)

OFFICE SYMBOL

(DATE)

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMC Initial/Final Selection Board

SUBJECT: Nomination for the Dr. Mary E. Walker (DRMEW) Award

1. I nominate the following individual for this prestigious award:

a. **NAME:** _____

b. **SPOUSE'S RANK/NAME:** _____

c. **ORGANIZATION:** _____

d. **VOLUNTEER POSITION/CONTRIBUTIONS:** _____

e. **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS:** (Use as many lines as needed)

2. Point of contact is _____ at DSN _____.

SIGNATURE BLOCK
OF NOMINATING
INDIVIDUAL